

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 3-4, 1961**

**Resolution No. 3: Rescinding Legislative Policy Resolutions by the Legislative Commission**

**Origin: Legislative Commission**

**Submitted by: Legislative Commission**

WHEREAS, Under date of March 7, 1961, National Commander William R. Burke directed a staff study be made of all existing non-legislative policy resolutions dealing with the National Legislative Commission; and

WHEREAS, This study was made by the staff of the National Legislative Commission and as a result it was found there are 37 resolutions and statements of policy no longer having any value because they are obsolete; have accomplished their purpose; are superseded by later resolutions; are in conflict with later resolutions; are duplicated by later resolution; are no longer of value because of changes in the program, or for other reasons; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with the request of the Special Program Study Committee of the National Executive Committee, we have prepared and submitted a blanket resolution for approval by you gentlemen of the National Executive Committee rescinding all of the above mentioned resolutions; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 3-4, 1961, That the following resolutions be rescinded.**

**1919**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 20, Paragraph 3: “Your (Legislative) Committee recommends that each state organization be directed to appoint a Legislative Committee in such manner as the state organization may elect with such powers as may be necessary to facilitate the enactment of Legislation before its State Legislators.” Note: Recommend rescission on basis that department pursue state legislation in accordance with department mandates.**

**1920**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 33, Unnumbered Paragraph: “Your (Legislative) Committee recommends that each state organization be directed to appoint a Legislative Committee in such manner as the state organization may elect with such powers as may be necessary to facilitate the enactment of Legislation before its State Legislators.” Note: Recommend rescission on basis that department pursue state legislation in accordance with department mandates.**

**1922**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 21, Resolution 9: “Urging the establishment by Congress of a new and separate committee to consider all matters of Legislation dealing with compensation, hospitalization and rehabilitation.” Note: Recommend rescission on basis that a committee in each House is desired, and further, that one such committee has now been created. Request for a Senate Veteran’s Affairs Committee should be contained in a new declaration of policy.**

**Page 24, near bottom right column: That all Legislation affecting veterans of the World War be referred to a Standing Committee in each branch of Congress so that responsibility of such legislation shall be upon a single agency.” Note: Recommend rescission, with new statement of policy pertaining to Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.**

## **1923**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 28: Last resolution in left column urging standing Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Congress. Note: In view of the fact that we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

## **1924**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 21, Resolution 17: "authorizing the National Legislative Committee to exercise its discretion as to the time and manner of proceeding to procure the legislation recommended." Note: Recommend rescission on basis that more recent criteria governs action of the National Legislative Commission.**

## **1930**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 57, Resolution 1: Calls for a separate committee in the Senate to consider veterans' affairs. Note: In view of the fact that we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**Page 57, Resolution 16: Recommends a committee for standardization of veteran-aid legislation. Note: Recommend rescission in view of current procedural policy.**

## **1932**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 32: Statement "Procedure as to Legislation" contained in "Report of National Defense committee."**

**"The Legion by all available means must enlighten the people of its community as to the significance of National Defense and then interest them to the extent of informing their representation in the Congress at the proper time as to their desires in this regard.**

**"It is the proper duty of the Legion to give to each Senator and congressman and to any candidate for these positions, the views of the Legion on National Defense and, in return, request his stand on that program. The Legion officers may then, in accord with his stand, properly advise the Legion posts as to the Senator's Congressman's or candidate's value to the Nation insofar as National Defense is concerned. The Legion, with its affiliations, represents a substantial portion of the community and is entitled to know the views of its legislators, or prospective legislators, in the Congress, upon a subject which the Legion considers of vital interest to the Nation and of direct concern to the Legion." Note: Recommend rescission in view of current legislative policy.**

**Page 53: Resolution captioned "Veterans' Legislation."**

**"Whereas, The American Legion should take the initiative to sift legislation already enacted, and legislation to be introduced for the benefit of the World War Veterans and eliminate therefrom any injustices, either to the Veteran or to the Government; and now, therefore, be it**

**"Resolved, By this Fourteenth Convention of The American Legion now in National convention assembled that there be appointed a committee to investigate, study and suggest to our National Executive Committee, any changes which will correct any injustices either in the existing legislation or in the administration thereof to benefit either the Veteran or the Government, with authority to call to the attention of Congress any abuses or failures in the administration thereof; and**

**"Be It Further Resolved, That any major changes suggested in Veterans' legislation, resulting from such investigation shall be referred to the next and succeeding conventions of the American Legion with such recommendations as may be appropriate.**

**"The resolution was adopted." Note: Recommend rescission in view of current legislative policy.**

## **1933**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held May 4-5, 1933. Page 35: Special Veterans' Legislation Committee report. Subdivision 5 (lower right hand column of page 35) which reads as follows:**

**“It is our recommendation that The American Legion’s ‘Legislative’ and ‘Rehabilitation’ organizations at Washington be retained in their full force and strength, and instructed to continue to carry on vigorously in the interest of the nation and its people, veterans and non-veteran alike.**

**“5. We submit for the consideration of the National Executive Committee and for transmission to the Fifteenth National Convention for adoption a permanent legislative policies of The American Legion, the following:**

**“(A) A governmental policy of equal treatment of veterans and dependents of all wars.**

**“(B) A permanent classification and standardization of benefits for all classes of veterans and their dependents, of all wars, past and future, upon which both the government and its defenders may rely.**

**“(C) A governmental policy, contemplating adequate compensation and hospitalization for all veterans with war service-connected disabilities without regard to their financial status or other means of support.**

**“(D) A governmental policy recognizing that all incapacitated veterans without means of support are charges and wards of the federal government and not of state and local governments or of public charity.”**

**After conferring with Mr. John J. Corcoran, director of the National Rehabilitation Commission, it was decided that he would take up with the chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission suggested disposition of Part One above referred to inasmuch as both the Legislative and Rehabilitation Division s are concerned with same. The National Rehabilitation Commission will also make recommendations as to 5 (C) and 5 (D). Note: The national legislative director recommends rescission of 5 (A) and (B) in view of current legislative policy.**

### **1935**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 41: Resolution captioned “Civil Service Preference.”**

**“Some fourteen resolutions dealing with the subject of Civil Service, after due consideration were consolidated into one resolution which expresses in full the thought and recommendations of your committee on this subject:**

**“ ‘Whereas, the merit system of Civil Service selection and promotion in the government service, without discrimination or preference except as service to the country in its armed forces in time of war has earned and justifies a preference for veterans and the widows of veterans--has heretofore been by The American Legion approved and affirmed; therefore, be it**

**“ ‘Resolved that the National Legislative Committee be directed to relentlessly pursue to a favorable and definite accomplishment, legislation making it mandatory that all departments and independent establishments of the federal government observe and enforce veteran’s preference in selection, retention and promotion in civil service, presenting such acts to the Congress as will prevent the inclusion of other than duly accredited veterans of war service, or their widows, or wives of disabled veterans who themselves are not qualified but whose wives are qualified, in the provisions of the act and giving credit as time served for promotion to the period which a war veteran served in the armed forces during the actual period of war emergency, which as to World War veterans is a period April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918. And that in all other respects the merit system of civil service be strictly followed.’ ” Note: Recommend rescission in view of current legislative policy governing preference.**

### **1936**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held November 19-20, 1936. Page 63: “Resolution on Policy” contained in the report of the Resolution Subcommittee which reads as follows:**

**“Resolution No. 7 has to do with clarifying convention mandates relative to national policy of The American Legion in accordance with mandates from the Cleveland National Convention. In other words, there might be in the record mandates by the various conventions which are clearly in conflict and not in accord with the present policy of the national organization. The committee, therefore, considered the matter and advised as follows:**

**“Be it Resolved, that the national commander be authorized appoint a committee of five members to examine all previous National Convention action and mandates which may be in conflict with the present policy of our organization and for the purpose of eliminating such conflicting policy.**

**“Be It Further Resolved, that said committee should report back to the National Executive Committee at its next meeting in 1937, with recommendations thereon.” Note: Recommend rescission in view of current legislative policies and pertinent resolution thereon which have been adopted since Resolution No. 7 was approved at the November 19-20, 1936, N. E. C. meeting.**

#### **1937**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held May 6 and 7, 1937. Page 60 and 61: Report of Committee for Eliminating Any Conflicting Policies. The appointment of this special committee was authorized at the 1936 National Convention and they were directed to make a survey of National Convention mandates from 1919 to 1946 inclusive, and to report thereon at the first meeting of the N. E. C. held during the year 1937. They were to examine all previous convention actions and mandates which may be in conflict with the (then) present policy of our organization and for the purpose of eliminating such conflicting policies.**

**A portion of the committee’s report reads as follows (page 61):**

**“Resolved, That any policy adopted by the national organization of The American Legion by convention action shall be a mandate during the year of its adoption and thereafter shall continue as the national policy of the national organization unless changed by subsequent convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee; that each and every convention mandate, each and every action with no exception whatsoever, is the law of the Legion unless and until rescinded or changed by convention or National Executive Committee authority. And we add to that our conviction that administrative policy must be guided accordingly.” The above is the only item with which the National Legislative commission is concerned in 1961. Note: Recommended rescission on basis that the policy is contained in subsequent resolutions.**

#### **1946**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 83, Resolution 191:**

**Whereas, there is now pending in congress, H. R. 2346, an Act to provide aid for the readjustment in civilian life of those persons who rendered wartime service in the United States Merchant Marine, and to provide aid for their families; and**

**Whereas, H. R. 2346 contemplates the classification of former members of the Merchant Marine as quasi-military and grants to them certain benefits similar to those afforded honorably discharged veterans; now, therefore, be it**

**Resolved, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 - October 4, 1946, That we are opposed to the passage of H. R. 2346. Note: Recommend rescission on basis that this policy is reaffirmed in subsequent resolution.**

#### **1946**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held November 21-23, 1946 Page 58: Presentation to Congress of American Legion Legislative Program. Resolution 15, presented by Chairman McKinley. There is no need to copy the full resolution here. Note: Resolution 15 should be rescinded in view of our current resolution (No. 631 adopted at the 1959 National Convention) on this same subject.**

#### **1947**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held May 5-7, 1947. Page 58: "National Legionnaire" to carry votes of Senators and Representatives in Congress. Resolution 112, from the National Legislative committee, recommended that the then "National Legionnaire" carry votes of Senators and Representatives in Congress on the Legion priority legislative program.**

When and as the occasion arises, the "National Legislative Bulletin," now published by the National Legislative Commission twice a week when the Congress is in session, and once a week when the Congress is in recess, does carry the voters of members of Congress when same can be obtained (only where there has been a roll call vote). Other items, the director of the National Legislative Commission issues a separate, written statement showing votes on controversial matters in which The American Legion is interested.

Note: Therefore, in view of the forgoing it is recommended that Resolution 112 be rescinded.

Page 58: Content of "Legislative Bulletins" to appear in "National Legionnaire." Resolution 124 submitted by the then Liaison With National Legislative Committee was adopted. Note: For the same reasons as indicated under Resolution 112, above, it is recommended that Resolution 124 be rescinded. In addition, the "National Legislative Bulletin" is sent, free, to all national executive committeemen, department commanders, department adjutants, and department legislative chairmen.

#### 1950

Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 67, Resolution 685, Captioned: Oppose granting veterans' benefits to form members of non-military or quasi-military groups associated with armed forces. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 612 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.

Page 67, Resolution 438, Caption: Oppose any legislation based on Hoover Commission reports that would weaken veterans' rights. Note: Recommend rescission on basis that this policy is reaffirmed by subsequent resolution.

#### 1950

Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held October 8-12, 1950. Page 6: Resolution to oppose veterans' benefits to former members of Merchant Marine, Red Cross, etc., and other quasi-military groups. The resolution is unnumbered. The resolution is not being copied in full because same is referred to in several subsequent years and nothing is to be gained by repetition. Note: In view of the fact we have current and broad resolution (No. 612 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.

#### 1951

Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held May 2-4, 1951. Page 59: In the report of the National Legislative Commission under the caption "Miscellaneous," reference is made to non-military or quasi-military groups. Resolution 685 previously adopted at the 1950 National Convention reads as follows:

Resolution 685, Los Angeles, 1950:

"Resolved, to oppose legislation granting veterans' benefits to merchant marine and similarly opposes the granting of such benefits to former members of the American Field Service, Coast Guard Temporary Reservist (except those on full-time active duty), Civil Patrol, Russian Railway Service Corps, American Red Cross, Office of Strategic (civilians), and other non-military or quasi-military groups."

Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 512 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.

#### 1951

Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 52, Resolution 565, Caption: Creation of Veterans' Affairs Committee in the United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.

#### 1952

Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 66, Resolution 573, Caption: National Legislative Commission shall have exclusive responsibility for petitioning Congress regarding all legislation for The American Legion. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 631 adopted at the 1959 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.

## **1952**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held October 10-12, 1952. Page 63: In the Report of the National Legislative Commission under the caption "Miscellaneous," reference is made to non-military or quasi-military groups. We are not copying Resolution 572 in full because the same resolution is referred to on the immediate preceding page of this report covering NEC meeting of May 2-4, 1951. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 612 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**Page 64: Reference is made to creating a standing Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate (Resolution 615 of the 1952 National Convention). Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

## **1952**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held October 10-12, 1952. Page 64, resolution 574: Adopted at the New York 1952 Convention entitled "Oppose Hoover Report Proposals Adversely Affecting Veterans" reads as follows:**

**Resolution 574, New York, 1952:**

**"Resolved, that we re-affirm our vigorous and active opposition to the proposals of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report adversely affecting veterans, and that Operation Victory be continued during the ensuing year to again make certain that any program designed to advance said proposals shall be decisively defeated."**

**In view of the fact that "Operation Victory" was completed several years ago, there is no need to continue this resolution. Note: Recommend rescission in view of the above situation.**

## **1954**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings. Page 40, Resolution 640, Caption: Oppose granting of military status to non-military or quasi military groups for purposes of securing veterans' benefits. Note. In view of the fact we have current and broader resolution (No. 512 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**Page 50, Resolution 464, Caption: Establish Veterans Affairs Committee in the United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

## **1954**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held October 5-7, 1954. Page 57: In the Report of the National Legislative Commission under the caption "Miscellaneous" reference is made to non-military or quasi-military groups (Resolution 640, 1954). Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 612 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

## **1956**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings Page 32, Resolution 157, Caption: Create Veterans Affairs Committee in United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

## **1956**

**Reference: Digest of Minutes of N. E. C. meeting held October 17-19, 1956. Page 29: Under the Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions reference is made to Resolution No. 1 -- Oppose veterans' benefits to non-military or quasi-military groups. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 612 adopted at the 1958 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**1957**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings Page 44, Resolution 296, Caption: Create Veterans Affairs Committee in United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**Page 44: Resolution 185, Caption: Proposals for legislative action be limited strictly to those which have a direct effect upon the major programs of The American Legion, or concern veterans; affairs and national defense. Note: Recommend rescission since policy is contained in subsequent resolution.**

**1958**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings Page 31, Resolution 229, Caption: Limit legislative program to proposals having direct effect upon major programs of The American Legion. Note: Recommend rescission since policy is contained in subsequent resolution.**

**Page 33, Resolution 445, Caption: Create Veterans Affairs Committee in United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**

**1959**

**Reference: Convention Proceedings Page 27, Resolution 97, Caption: Create Veterans Affairs Committee in United States Senate. Note: In view of the fact we have a current and broader resolution (No. 111 adopted at the 1960 National Convention) on this subject, rescission is recommended.**